






You Already Know MTC

Whether or not you associate them with us, you’re probably familiar with some of the services MTC offers to the Bay Area traveling public. Here are a few of the higher-profile initiatives we have undertaken to improve operations and enhance the efficiency of our regional transportation network.

511 Traveler Information	
	Launched by MTC in 2002, 511 is a 24-hour, toll-free phone and Web service (511.org) that consolidates Bay Area transportation information into a one-stop resource. 511 provides up-to-the-minute information on traffic conditions, incidents and driving times; schedule, route and fare information for dozens of public transportation services; instant carpool and vanpool referrals; bicycle routes and more.
FasTrak®	
	FasTrak® is the electronic toll collection system used on the Bay Area’s seven state-owned toll bridges and the Golden Gate Bridge. The Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), an arm of MTC, manages marketing and customer service operations for FasTrak® – which by eliminating the need for commuters to stop and pay tolls helps to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion-related pollution at bridge toll plazas.
TransLink® Smart Card	
	MTC is leading the effort to have one “universal” ticket – called TransLink® – to pay fares on all Bay Area public transit systems. TransLink® went into service in the fall of 2006 on AC Transit and Golden Gate Transit buses and ferries. Over the next four years, this “smart” fare card will be accepted on Muni, BART, Caltrain, SamTrans, VTA and all other transit systems in the region.



Freeway Service Patrol



Sponsored by the MTC Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE) in partnership with Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the Bay Area's Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) is a fleet of roving tow trucks that are on the lookout for stalls and accidents during peak commute hours. Today, 83 trucks patrol some 500 miles of the region's most congested freeways. On average, FSP drivers stop more than 10,000 times a month to rescue stranded motorists, clear dangerous road debris, tag abandoned vehicles and otherwise help make the Bay Area's freeways safer and less congested.

Call Boxes



The bright yellow, solar-powered call boxes you see along Bay Area highways are there courtesy of MTC SAFE, Caltrans and the CHP. Some 2,100 roadside call boxes are in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The call boxes provide motorists with a direct line to dispatchers, allowing them to report a road hazard, a flat tire or a mechanical breakdown. Some 30,000 calls for help are made annually from the roadside boxes.

Getting There on Transit



Published by MTC, this free, pocket-sized guide includes directions to 250 popular destinations in the nine-county region that are easily reached by bus, ferry or rail. *Getting There on Transit* features 15 full-color regional and local maps (including close-ups of downtowns) showing routes offered by 37 bus, rail and ferry operators; a directory of special taxi and van services for elderly and disabled riders; and connections to the Oakland, San Francisco and San Jose airports.